

"EXORCIST" SPOOF MAY PUT YOUR HEAD IN A SPIN!

REPOSSESSED (15)

Linda Blair, Ned Beatty, Leslie Nielsen, Anthony Starke

Guild Home Video

If you were expecting this to be a laugh riot, I'm afraid you're in for a bit of a disappointment.

Apart from a handful of amusing sight gags, a plethora of crude one-liners from Nielsen and some inventive SFX, there's not a lot going on in this spoof comedy which has absolutely *nothing* to do with the "Exorcist" series, we are told.

In 1973, poor Nancy Aglet (Blair) was exorcised by the brave and powerful Father Jedidiah Mayii (Nielsen). It seemed the powers of evil had left her for good and Father Mayii retired safe in the

knowledge that all was well.

Now, she's happily married to Braydon (Thom J Sharp), and has two lovely kids (Benj Thall and Dove Dellos), whom she lives with in an idyllic smalltown home. All seems normal until the family tune into an evangelical show hosted by Ernest Weller (Beatty), his gaudy wife Fanny (Lana Schwab) and her little poodle Frou-Frou, as Nancy is zapped by some strange force...she's just been repossessed!

She seeks help from self-doubting young priest Father Luke Brophy (Starke) but he is too inexperienced to assist. Father Mayii will have to be persuaded to come out of retirement for one more exorcism, or Nancy will be throwing up pea soup over her family

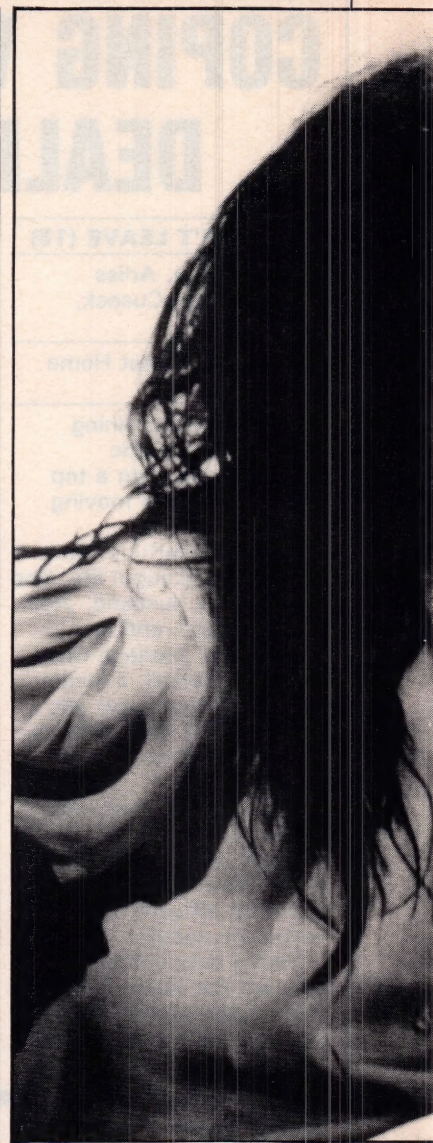
and living with a head which spins 360 degrees for the rest of her life!

"Repossessed" is hilarious in short bursts but the comedy is spread woefully unevenly through its 80 minute duration. The cast try their best and almost succeed on occasions, but with constant in-jokes and references to American TV getting in the way, I can't see how a British audience will think this a classic.

Leslie Nielsen is amusing as the cowardly Mayii and scores well with some nifty impersonations of the likes of Michael Jackson and Elton John towards the end of the film, but even he can't really save this from the depths of mediocrity. And if he can't, that's saying something.

CK

★ ★



Right: Linda Blair reprises her famous horror role—with laughs—in "Repossessed". **Below:** Robin Williams (with Judith Hoag) is the "Cadillac Man".

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KICKING OUT THE LINGERING KIDS

WHERE THE HEART IS (15)

Dabney Coleman, Uma Thurman, Joanna Cassidy, Crispin Glover

Guild Home Video

An interesting and for the most part well acted family drama which only falls down in the last half hour or so.

Stewart McBain (Coleman) is a self-made man, the rich but down to earth entrepreneur who has built American Demolition up to the success it is today. He's a father of the old school, a firm believer in the good old values of hard work and humility.

It irks him to see his three rather spoilt grown up children still hanging around their luxury Manhattan home now they're into their twenties—so he makes the ultimate decision and throws son Jimmy (Davis Hewlett), and daughters Chloe (Suzy Amis) and Daphne (Thurman) out,

much to mom's (Cassidy) horror.

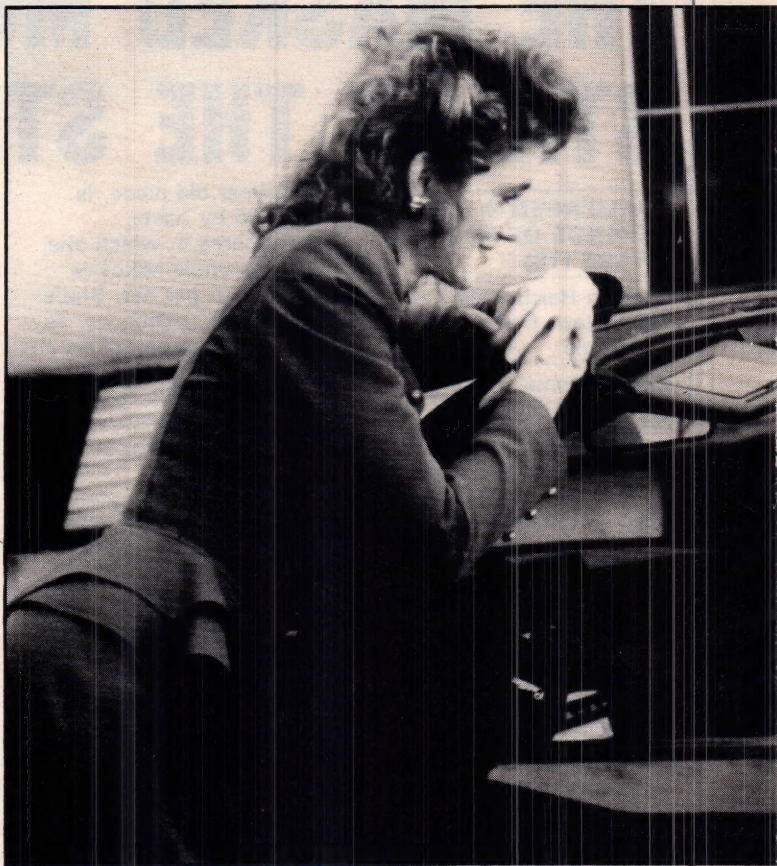
Dad gives the three a run down old house in the Bronx to do up and fully expects them to come running back within the week. But the kids do surprisingly well and settle down to a Bohemian type existence.

Trouble is afoot when dad's treasured company runs into tremendous financial problems, so much so that he is forced to sell off the Manhattan home and virtually every other asset, and come cap in hand to his children for help. But, after how harshly he treated them, will they be willing to lend a hand?

"Where The Heart Is" is blessed with good performances most notably from Dabney Coleman as the harrassed Stewart who only wants what's best for his children, and from Crispin Glover as the camp designer.

CK

★ ★ ★ ½



RIOTOUS ROBIN PROPS UP THIS CAR SALES COMEDY

CADILLAC MAN (15)

Robin Williams, Tim Robbins, Pamela Reed, Fran Drescher

20:20 Vision

Another powerhouse performance from the multi-talented Mr Williams helps keep this otherwise undistinguished comedy afloat.

He appears as ace car salesman Joey O'Brien, top dog at Turgeon Auto for the last 18 years. Joey loves selling cars, but his downfall is, he also loves women...all women! There's ex-wife Tina (Reed), who still falls for his corny

chat up lines every time, highly strung fashion designer Lila (Lori Petty) and rich businessman's wife Joy (Drescher) armed her ever-present odious little yapping lap dog.

When bosses announce that staff cuts are in the pipeline, the Turgeon salesmen steel themselves for a one day clearance sale. How many cars each man shifts will determine whether he keeps his job or gets the elbow.

All goes well on sale day for Joey until Tina calls to tell him their 15 year old daughter's disappeared, Joy comes into the showroom with her husband and a

motorcycle crashes through the showroom window!

The biker is trigger-happy Larry (Robbins), husband of the company's secretary, who has come to the office to kill the man who's sleeping with his wife! Joey hasn't been bedding her his boss has, but under gun point must pretend he's the guilty party to calm Larry and get the other members of staff and remaining customers out of the mess safely...

If you're a particular fan of Robin's, you'll love this, but others might not find this uneven farce half as funny.

CK

★ ★ ½

MOVE OVER, JEAN-CLAUDE!

ANGEL TOWN (18)

Olivier Gruner, Theresa Saldana, Frank Aragon, Tony Valentino

VDP/American Imperial

Move over, Jean Claude Van-Damme, another new martial arts superstar looks like stealing your crown as action film top dog on the strength of this entertaining romp!

The star in question is French martial arts whizz and twice world kickboxing champion Olivier Gruner, who plays mild-mannered Jacques Montaine in the film. Jacques comes to Los Angeles as an exchange student turned kickboxing trainer and, unable to gain a room in the halls of residence at the university he's attending, Jacques rents a room from a likeable family in a particularly rough part of town.

It's not long before Jacques is the target of an especially nasty street gang led by the psychotic Angel but he's not going to let anyone bully him out of town...as he dispenses his own lethal brand of one on one street fighting justice.

"Angel Town" is slick martial arts fare, coming to you from the producers of "AWOL", no less. Olivier Gruner is good-looking in a Gallic sort of way and likely

to set female hearts a flutter, while the guys in the audience will appreciate the well choreographed fight scenes, exciting chases and more. Gruner convinces in the role of the hapless Jacques and more than looks the part.

"Angel Town" is a well above average martial arts affair with much to recommend to fans of that genre in particular.

CK

★ ★ ★ ½

See advert on page 25!

VIVA ROMANCE!

OLD GRINGO (15) £9.99

Jane Fonda, Gregory Peck, Jimmy Smits, Patricio Contreras

RCA/Columbia Home Video

This Jane Fonda production has all the hallmarks of an epic production from stunning location filming, a rather lengthy running time of just under two hours, and an absorbing subject matter, but falls down somewhat on an overcomplicated plot and characters which just fail to sparkle to life convincingly.

The setting here is the Mexico of 1913 as the country is in the throes of a turbulent civil war.

Into this stormy backdrop wanders youngish spinster Harriet Winslow (Fonda), a staid American lady who has headed south to Mexico in search of adventure and hopeful of finding

excitement lacking in her everyday life.

The plot examines her relationship with a sardonic elderly journalist Ambrose Bierce (Peck) and a fiery Mexican general, Tomas Arroyo (Smits, of "L.A. Law" fame), who wishes to change Mexico through revolution

As the revolution runs its bloody course, the three find their lives intermingling in totally unexpected ways...

"Old Gringo" is an intense, atmospheric production based on Carlos Fuentes novel and is blessed with good performances from Peck, Fonda and Smits.

It's a classy if flawed production for the more discerning drama follower.

CK

★ ★ ★ ★

